



Partners in Experiential Learning



Wood burned to fuel conventional coffee dryers

Café Solar® promotes local manufacturing of high-efficiency drying chambers here in New England



Winner of the 2012 & 2009 US Forest Service “Wings Across the Americas” Award for international cooperation and benefit to forest habitat.

Café Solar®, coffee dried using renewable energy technology, is a program of the Mesoamerican Development Institute (MDI) and partner Red Barn Coffee Roasters. MDI is introducing innovation in coffee production and processing designed to increase competitiveness of fair-trade cooperatives through the transfer and adoption of clean technology and biodiversity-friendly agroforestry systems.

The introduction and replication of the award-winning technology and production methods are supported through a developing education and training program administered through a consortium that includes University of Massachusetts and three Central American universities.



Solar/Biomass Coffee Drying

Café Solar® is dried with solar/biomass technology, using solar energy and fuel derived from the husk of the coffee bean. This eliminates the use of firewood and fossil fuels to dry the coffee harvest. Throughout Mesoamerica, an estimated 6,500 hectares of forest are cut each year to supply the firewood for conventional coffee dryers. This is roughly equivalent to the loss of 3 square centimeters of forest for each cup of coffee we consume.

The purchase of Café Solar® supports cooperatives of small farmers that have transitioned from wood-burning conventional dryers to renewable energy technology, adding a new degree of sustainability to coffee production.



MDI's work is featured in the Public Television Documentary

<http://www.mesoamerican.org>

Follow Café Solar and its programs on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cafesolar.com) www.cafesolar.com

Integrated Open Canopy Production

Integrated Open Canopy™ (IOC) coffee production increases yield for small farmers, while expanding and maintaining forest habitat for migratory birds. IOC production creates a major opportunity for carbon trading with the producers the direct beneficiary.

IOC production has been studied for seven consecutive years and has been found to be the best system for migratory birds, supporting forest-dependent species, which are not supported by shade coffee.



Solar/Biomass Drying System